

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 08515 141853Z
ACTION SS-25

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-----141858Z 066432 /46

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8699

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 8515

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT CASC UR SOPN

SUBJECT: TOTH CASE: JUNE 14 INTERROGATION AT LEFORTOVA

REF: MOSCOW 8349

1. LA TIMES CORRESPONDENT TOTH WAS INTERROGATED FOR FOUR HOURS JUNE 14 AT LEFORTOVA PRISON BY A KGB MAJOR DOBROVOLSKIY. HE WAS SUMMONED TO LEFORTOVA JUNE 15 AT 10:00 AM FOR A SECOND SESSION, BUT WAS ALLOWED TO GO HOME OVERNIGHT. THE SESSION WAS CALM AND NOT HEATED. TOTH WAS SKED SERIES OF QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS ACTIVITIES AS A JOURNALIST. THESE FOCUSED ON HIS METHODS OF GATHERING INFORMATION AND ESPECIALLY ON THOSE DISSIDENTS WITH WHOM HE ADMITTED HE HAD CONTACTS. TOTH NAMED ORLOV, SHCHARANSKIY, SLEPAK, LERNER, VORONINA, AND SAKHAROV. HE WAS ASKED WHETHER ANY AMERICAN DIPLOMATS HAD BEEN PRESENT AT THE PARTY IN THE APARTMENT OF ALEKSANDR LERNER AT WHICH TOTH HAD MET PETUKHOV, AND TOTH STATED THAT FORMER FSO NATHANSON HAD BEEN PRESENT.

2. TOTH CONSIDERED MOST IMPORTANT POINT TO INTERROGATOR'S QUESTIONS TO BE THAT INFORMATION ABOUT SCIENCE
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WHICH IS NO OFFICIALLY GIVEN OUT CAN BE CONSIDERED SECRET AND THAT IGNORANCE OF THIS POINT OF LAW IS NOT AN EXCUSE. THEREFORE, TOTH WAS TOLD THAT HIS RECEIPT OF INFORMATION ON PARAPSYCHOLOGY MAY BE VIOLATION OF LAW. INTERROGATOR NOTED THAT TOTH'S ACTIONS MAY BE CONSIDERED "SPYING IN A WAY". APART FROM THIS SUGGESTION, THERE WAS NO INDICATION

THAT TOTH WAS BEING ACCUSED OR THAT THE INVESTIGATION WAS BEING CONDUCTED TO DETERMINE IF HE HAD COMMITTED A CRIME. AT NO TIME WAS TOTH TOLD THE PURPOSE OF THE INVESTIGATION OR WHO WAS THE SUBJECT OF THE INVESTIGATION.

3. TOTH WAS INFORMED OF THE PROCEDURAL ARTICLES OF RFSFR CODE WHICH WOULD GOVERN HIS INTERROGATION AND INTER ALIA WAS TOLD THAT HE COULD BE QUESTIONED ABOUT ANYTHING OF INTEREST TO THE ORGANIZATION CONDUCTING THE INVESTIGATION AND THAT HE DID NOT UNDER SOVIET LAW ENJOY DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY.

4. AFTER INITIALLY OBJECTING, TOTH SIGNED THE PROTOCOL OF HIS INTERROGATION, BUT WITH A WRITTEN "DISCLAIMER" THAT HE HAD NO MAJOR DISAGREEMENTS WITH THE "ESSENCE" OF THE PROTOCOL AS TRANSLATED TO HIM.

5. CONSULAR OFFICER'S REQUEST TO BE PRESENT AT INTERROGATION WAS REFUSED, BUT HE WAS ALLOWED TO WAIT OUTSIDE LEFORTOVA AND HAD OCCASIONAL CONTACT WITH THE AUTHORITIES. THERE WAS GOOD REPRESENTATION FROM THE AMERICAN PRESS AT LEFORTOVA AS TOTH WALKED OUT. HE TOLD THEM ONLY THAT HE WAS NOT TOLD THE OBJECT OF THE INVESTIGATION, THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN CHARGED, THAT HE SIGNED A PROTOCOL WITH A RESERVATION, THAT UNOFFICIALLY OBTAINED INFORMATION CONCERNING SCIENCE IS APPARENTLY ILLEGAL, AND THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO RETURN JUNE 15 TO LEFORTOVA FOR QUESTIONING.

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6. THE REMAINDER OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERROGATION TOTH GAVE US IN CONFIDENCE.
TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Concepts: DETENTION, JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 14-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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